

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the Office Action mailed 12/28/07, and the indication of allowable subject matter.

Prior to entry of this Amendment, Claims 9-16 and 34-37 were pending and under consideration. With this Amendment, Claims 9 and 35-37 have been amended; and Claim 34 has been canceled without prejudice to its reintroduction into this or one or more timely-filed related applications. Thus, after entry of this Amendment, Claims 9-16 and 35-37 are pending and under consideration.

The Amendments of the Claims

The Amendment canceled Claim 34.

Claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 34.

Claims 35-37 have been amended in order to identify their dependancy from Claim 9.

Support for the present amendments can be found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Rejection under 35 USC §§ 102(e) and 103

Claims 9-16 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Eichele.

Claims 9-11 and 14-16 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Bowen in view of Eichele.

Without in any way agreeing with the position of the Office and solely in order to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicant has amended Claim 9 to include the subject matter of Claim 34 that was indicated as allowable; withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 9 and claims depend thereon is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that Claims 9-16 and 35-37 satisfy all of the statutory requirements for patentability and are in condition for allowance. An early notification of the same is kindly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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